

Application No. 10/797,400
Amendment dated August 17, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 19, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Responsive to the Official Action mailed April 19, 2006, applicants have amended the claims of their application in an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance. Specifically, claims 1, 7, and 8 have been amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 and 8 as being obvious under 35 USC 103(a), with reliance on Storey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,784,892) in view of Brock et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,041,203), Willey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,766,737), Boe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,082,878), Mallen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,288,544), and Fujiwara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,951,535).

It is respectfully submitted that none of the seven relied upon references teach or suggest a method for making a nonwoven laminate fabric comprising a third continuous filament precursor web positioned between and in contact with first and second continuous filament precursor webs, wherein the webs are formed from dissimilar polymers, and wherein the third continuous filament precursor web alone acts as a binding agent for a consolidating step. As can be appreciated, the amended claims positively recite using only the third filament web as a bonding agent for consolidating the three webs together.

The secondary references, such as Willey et al., teach away from Applicants' novel invention, by which Applicants' provide a unique nonwoven fabric construct comprised of continuous filament webs that are in contact with each other and bonded to each other via the third continuous filament web alone, without resort to an intermediate meltblown fibrous web, as contemplated by Willey et al.

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By this response, new claims 15-18 have been added to further define applicants' novel invention. Support for these claims includes the disclosure at page 6, lines 15-24 of applicants' specification. Entry is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, formal allowance of claims 1-4, 6-8, and 15-18 is believed to be in order and is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner wish to speak with applicants' attorneys, they may be reached at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in connection with this submission to Deposit Account No. 23-0785.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this AMENDMENT is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 addressed to Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, Express Mail Label No. EV 843641105 US on **August 17, 2006**.


Colleen Davison